

ENTRANCES, PORCHES & DOORS

The alteration or removal of important character-defining features such as entrances, doors, doorways, and porches can damage the architectural integrity and beauty of an historical building and is not recommended. Entrances and their decorative elements should be retained, repaired and preserved because they define the historic character of a building. Important features include railings, columns, pillars, balustrades, pilasters, hardware, fanlights, transoms, sidelights, door openings and surrounds and stairs.

1. The removal or enclosure of an historic entrance or open front porch or side porch on publicly visible elevations of a contributing building is not appropriate; nor is the use of louvers, glazing, screening or a permanent enclosure of any kind permitted.
2. The enclosure or alteration of porches on non-publicly visible or non-character-defining elevations may be appropriate so long as the proposed enclosure would not adversely affect the historic integrity of the structure or the surrounding district and provided it does not radically change, obscure, or destroy character-defining spaces.
3. Entrances and porches with deteriorated portions must be repaired with materials *that replicate the original features as closely as possible* using physical or historical evidence as a guide. The construction of transoms or sidelights is allowed if they were an original element of the entrance.
4. A completely deteriorated porch may be rebuilt on a *board-for-board* basis based on physical or historic documents.
5. Materials used to repair entryway elements should *match the original fabric* as closely as possible in quality and durability (i.e., through use of cedar, cypress, redwood or pressure-treated wood) because exposed front elevations decay easily.
6. Single-story porches may not be altered or raised to two stories, nor may open roof decks be built on the roofs of one-story porches.
7. Porch reconstruction on contributing buildings *must duplicate the original entryway* and porch and be compatible in design, size, scale, material and color with the historical character of the building.
8. New porches constructed on noncontributing buildings must be compatible in scale and design with other original porch styles on its streetscape or on similar nearby buildings.
9. Doors must be *six or four-paneled wood doors* for 19th century residential buildings, unless historical documentation indicates otherwise. Two-panel wood doors are suitable for buildings with Greek Revival detailing. Some late 19th century and early 20th century buildings used horizontal paneled or half-glazed doors.
10. Larger commercial or residential structures may use *paired entry doors* if appropriate. Wooden doors with clear or etched glass ovals, jailhouse, metal, ironwork or Belair entry doors are not appropriate.
11. French doors may be *appropriate for side and rear entrances* but are generally not acceptable as front entryways on residential structures.
12. Sliding glass doors are *not appropriate* for use on any publicly visible façade of a contributing historic structure.
13. Exterior staircases are allowed on front elevations only *if they existed historically*. Repair of exterior staircases must be on a board-for-board basis with all features replicated; concrete replacement stairs are not allowed.
14. Upgrade or rebuild historic stairways to meet current health and safety regulations and improve stair height and width to meet code requirements but *preserve elements or original design* including balusters, newel posts, and railings.
15. *Retain and repair existing porch elements* such as historic posts, columns, balustrades and other features when possible.
16. Replace deteriorated porch elements with new elements *compatible in size, scale, design, and material* with originals.